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Testimony Supporting:
Raised Bill No. 5343 An Act Authorizing Keno

Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and members of the distinguished Public Safety and Security Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to support Raised Bill No. 5343, An Act Authorizing Keno.

As we all know, Connecticut is in a fiscal crisis and the state needs revenue. Simply put, Keno is a lottery game that will generate new revenue to the state coffers. At this time, this new revenue could be used to offset certain proposed spending reductions and perhaps reduce any proposed tax increases on Connecticut citizens.

The Connecticut Lottery Corporation offers its players new lottery games every year and Keno should be no different in that regard. In 2008, the Connecticut Lottery Corporation had total lottery sales of close to \$990 million dollars.

With all the new gaming technology and venues available to the consumer, Connecticut needs to be more strategic with its approach to gaming and to take full advantage of the possible revenue that accompanies this increasing trend. Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Maryland and many other state lotteries offer Keno as a lottery game and now it's time for Connecticut to do the same.

Further, as a member of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, I will continue to support and advocate for the new revenues to be included as part of the committee's revenue package.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

I urge your support of Raised Bill No. 5343.